

**Colorimetric and fluorimetric detection of Cu<sup>2+</sup> ions in aqueous solution using styrylpyridinium dye bearing iminodiacetate receptor group**

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**1. Experimental part**

Reactions were monitored by thin layer chromatography (TLC) with silica gel (DC-Alufolien Kieselgel 60 F254, Merck). Flash chromatography was performed using a Biotage IsoleraTM Prime system. Melting point was measured on Melt-temp melting point electrothermal apparatus and were uncorrected.

<sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectra were recorded on an Avance 400 spectrometer (Bruker). The measurements were performed in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub> solution. The chemical shifts (given as  $\delta$ ) were determined with an accuracy of 0.01 ppm relative to the signals corresponding to the residual solvents and recalculated to the internal standard (TMS); the spin-spin coupling constants (*J*) were measured with an accuracy of 0.1 Hz. The assignment of <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C signals is based on 2D NMR experiments (HMBC, HSQC, <sup>1</sup>H COSY), which were performed using standard pulse sequences from the Bruker library. Numbering of carbon atoms in the compound **1** used for the description of its NMR spectra is shown in Scheme S1. <sup>1</sup>H and <sup>13</sup>C spectra of **1** are prented in Fig.S3 and S4.

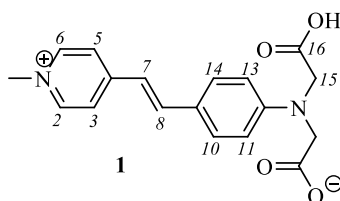
LC-ESI-MS analyses were performed using acetonitrile solutions on a Shimadzu LCMS-2020 liquid chromatography mass spectrometer.

The absorption spectra were taken on a Cary 300 spectrophotometer (Agilent Technologies). The fluorescence quantum yield measurements were performed using a Fluorolog3-221 spectrofluorimeter (Horiba Jobin Yvon). Spectral measurements were carried out in air-saturated solutions at ambient temperature. All measured fluorescence spectra were corrected for the nonuniformity of detector spectral sensitivity. Coumarin 6 in ethanol ( $\phi^{\text{fl}} = 0.78$ )<sup>S1</sup> was used as reference for the fluorescence quantum yield measurements. The fluorescence quantum yields were calculated by the Eq. (S1),<sup>S2</sup>

$$\varphi^{\text{fl}} = \varphi_{\text{R}}^{\text{fl}} \frac{S}{S_{\text{R}}} \cdot \frac{(1 - 10^{-A_{\text{R}}})n^2}{(1 - 10^{-A})n_{\text{R}}^2} \quad (\text{S1})$$

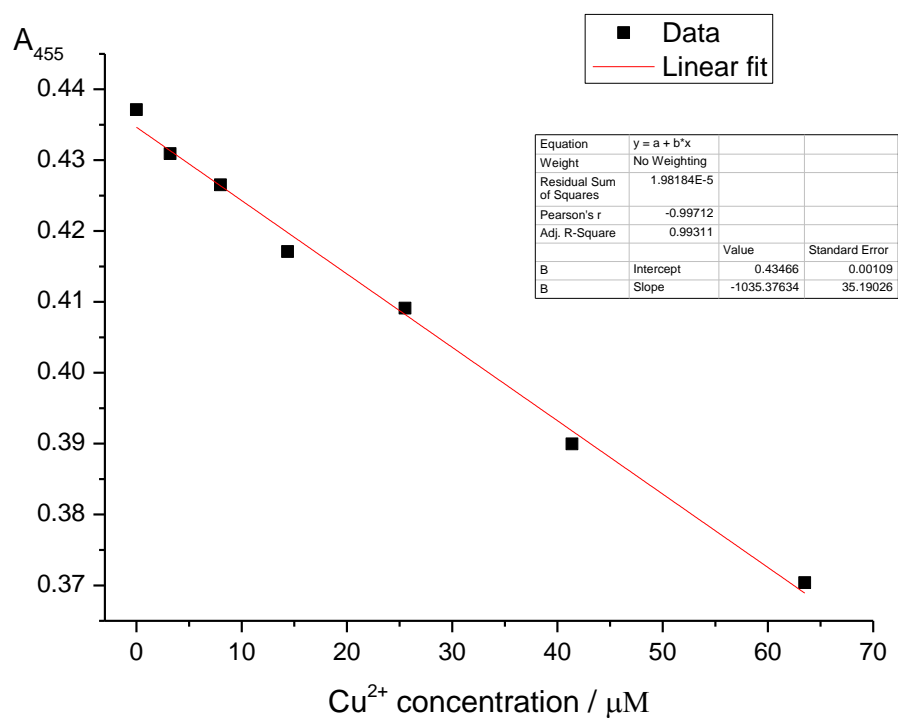
wherein  $\varphi^{\text{fl}}$  and  $\varphi_{\text{R}}^{\text{fl}}$  are the fluorescence quantum yields of the studied solution and the standard compound respectively;  $A$  and  $A_{\text{R}}$  are the absorptions of the studied solution and the standard respectively;  $S$  and  $S_{\text{R}}$  are the areas underneath the curves of the fluorescence spectra of the studied solution and the standard respectively; and  $n$  and  $n_{\text{R}}$  are the refraction indices of the solvents for the substance under study and the standard compound.

Complex formation of compound **1** with  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  was studied by spectrofluorometric and spectrophotometric titration.<sup>S3,S4</sup> The ratio of **1** to  $\text{Cu}^{2+}$  was varied by adding aliquots of a solution of copper(II) perchlorate in water of known concentration to a solution of ligand **1** in the acetate buffer (0.1 M, pH = 5.9). The fluorescence or absorption spectrum of each solution was recorded, and the stability constants of the complexes were determined using the SPECFIT/32 program (Spectrum Software Associates, West Marlborough, MA).

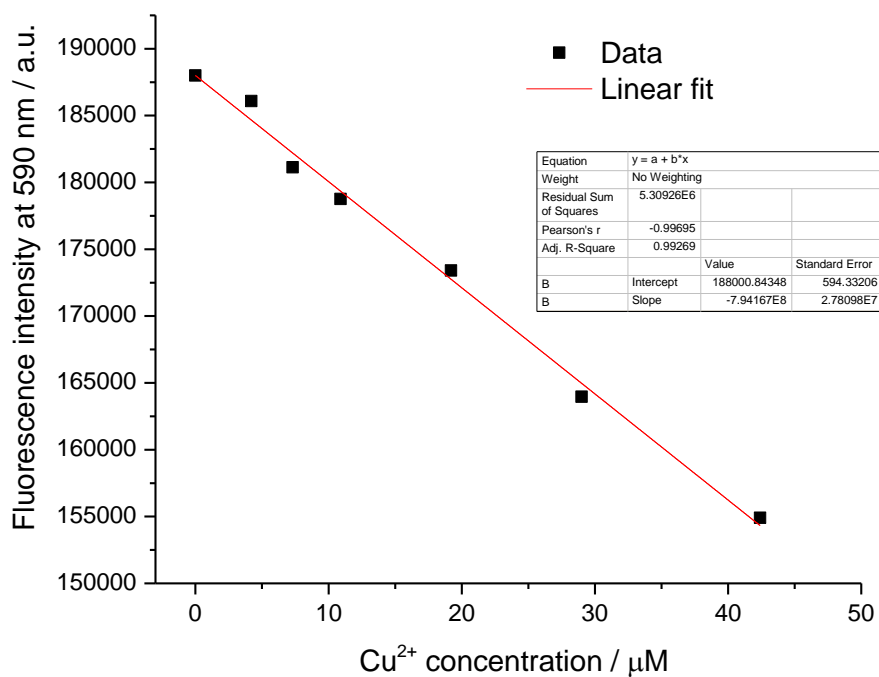


**Compound 1.** A solution of 2,2'-(4-formylphenylazanediyl)diacetic acid **5** (0.1 g, 0.42 mmol), 1,4-dimethylpyridinium iodide **6** (0.08 g, 0.34 mmol), piperidine (51  $\mu\text{l}$ , 0.51 mmol) in abs. ethanol (3 ml) was boiled under microwave irradiation for 3 hours. Then the reaction mixture was cooled and the resulting precipitate was filtered, washed with hexane, ethyl acetate and diethyl ether and dried. Red solid, yield 56% (0.063 g).  $^1\text{H}$  NMR (400.13 MHz,  $\text{DMSO}-d_6$ ,  $20^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\delta$  / ppm,  $J$  / Hz): 4.05 (s, 4H, H(15)); 4.16 (s, 3H,  $\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_3)$ ); 6.53 (d, 2H, H(11), H(13),  $J = 8.9$ ); 7.17 (d, 1H, H(7),  $J_{\text{trans}} = 16.0$ ); 7.58 (d, 2H, H(10), H(14),  $J = 8.9$ ); 7.89 (d, 1H, H(8),  $J_{\text{trans}} = 16.0$ ); 8.05 (d, 2H, H(3), H(5),  $J = 6.2$ ); 8.67 (d, 2H, H(2), H(6),  $J = 6.2$ ).  $^{13}\text{C}$  NMR (150.93 MHz,  $\text{DMCO}-d_6$ ,  $25^\circ\text{C}$ ,  $\delta$  / ppm): 46.4 ( $\text{N}^+(\text{CH}_3)$ ); 57.3 (C(15)); 111.4 (C(11), C(13)); 117.7 (C(7)); 122.3 (C(3), C(5)); 123.3 (C(9)); 130.1 (C(10), C(14)); 141.7 (C(8)); 144.4 (C(2), C(6)); 149.4 (C(12)); 153.3 (C(4)); 173.2 (C(16)). ESI-MS in MeOH,  $m/z$ : found, 327.00; calculated, 327.13 ( $[\text{M}+\text{H}]^+$ ). Found (%): C, 64.32; H, 5.64; N, 8.33; I, 0.75.  $\text{C}_{18}\text{H}_{18}\text{N}_2\text{O}_4 \cdot 0.02\text{HI} \cdot 0.4\text{H}_2\text{O}$ . Calculated (%): C, 64.44; H, 5.85; N, 8.12; I, 0.7.

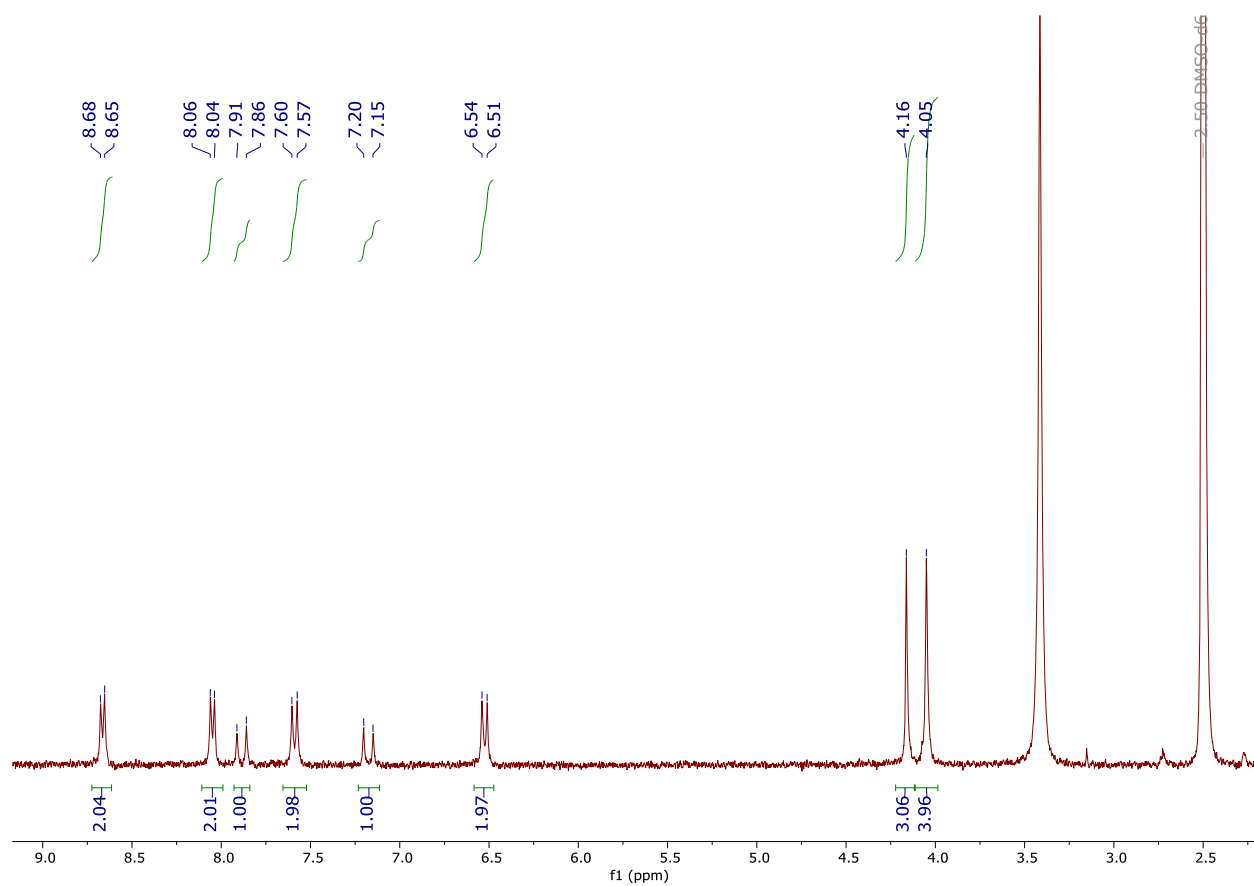
## 2. Figures S1–S5



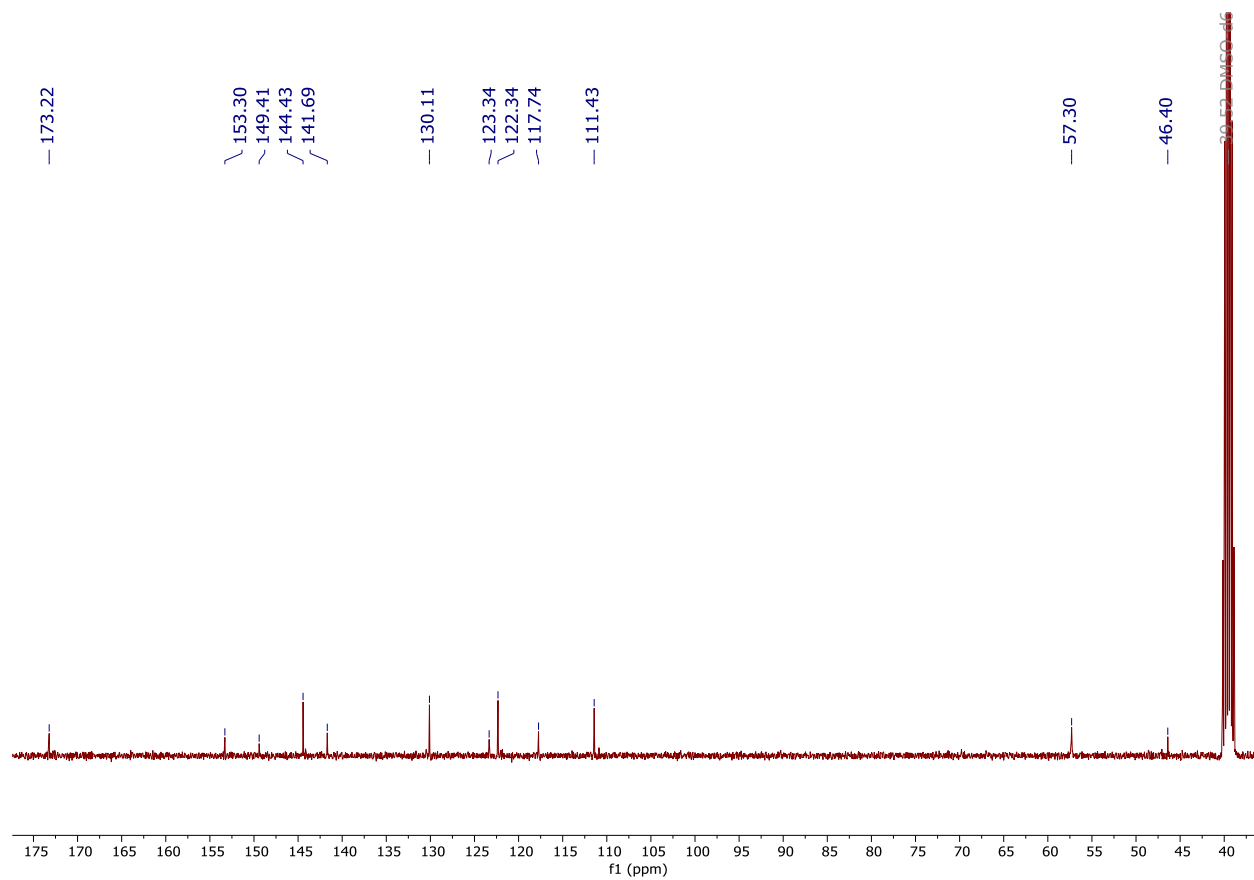
**Figure S1.** Plot of the absorption at 455 nm for sensor **1** ( $12.5 \mu\text{M}$ ) *versus* increasing concentrations of copper(II) perchlorate in the solution. Solvent – aqueous acetate buffer (0.1 M, pH 5.9).



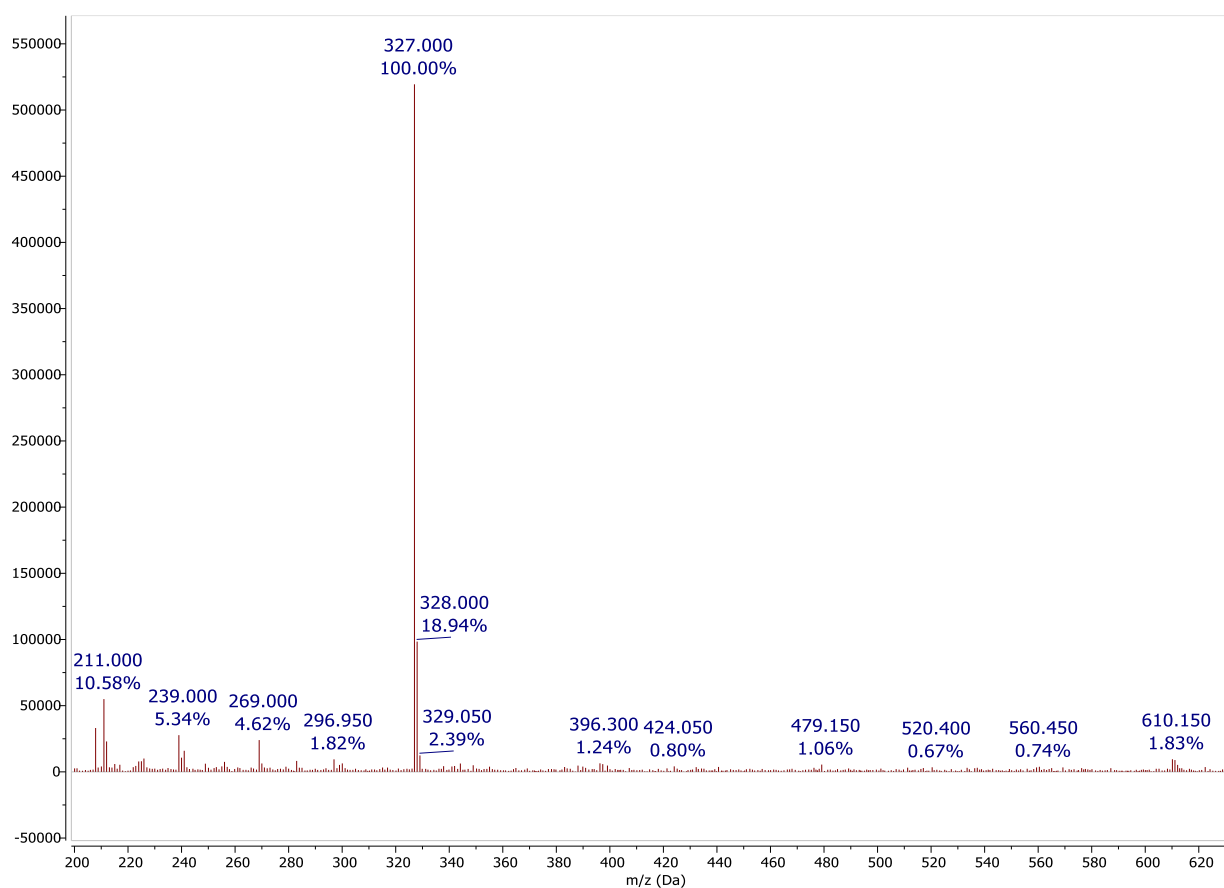
**Figure S2.** Plot of the fluorescence intensity at 590 nm for sensor **1** ( $12.5 \mu\text{M}$ ) *versus* increasing concentrations of copper (II) perchlorate in the solution. Excitation wavelength is 369 nm. Solvent – aqueous acetate buffer (0.1 M, pH 5.9).



**Figure S3.** <sup>1</sup>H NMR spectrum of compound **1** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S4.** <sup>13</sup>C NMR spectrum of compound **1** in DMSO-*d*<sub>6</sub>.



**Figure S5.** HR-ESI-Mass spectrum of compound **1**.

### 3. References

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